

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 FDRE-00 EA-06 OPR-02 A-01

H-02 SP-02 AID-05 VO-03 SR-02 ORM-01 INSE-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-10 SCA-01 /081 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3085

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2971

FOR AMBASSADOR DEAN BROWN FROM POPPER

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 97854

1. IN YOUR STATE 97854 YOU REQUEST ADDRESSEES TO MAKE HIGH LEVEL ORAL DEMARCHE SEEKING HAVENS FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. WE INTEND TO DO THIS SOONEST. WE READ INSTRUCTIONS TO ARA EMBASSIES (TO PROVIDE EMBASSY RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW BEST TO MAXIMIZE POSSIBILITIES) AS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH FOREGOING, BUT AS A SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUCTION.

2. GOC VIEWS COLLAPSE OF GVN AS A TRIUMPH OF "INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM" AND A CATASTROPHE FOR FREE WORLD (SEE OUR 2941). AT THIS MOMENT WE ESTIMATE GOC WOULD IN PRINCIPLE BE HAPPY TO RECEIVE REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, CERTAIN FACTORS WHICH WOULD IMPEL GOC TO RESPOND CAUTIOUSLY TO A FORMAL APPROACH.

3. FIRST, CHILE IS GOING THROUGH A SEVERE ECONOMIC CRISIS, WITH MASSIVE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT. IT WILL NOT
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BE ABLE TO ALLOCATE ANY SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCES TO ASSIST

REFUGEES. ACCORDINGLY, EITHER USG OR ONE OF THE REFUGEE
AND RESETTLEMENT ORGANIZATIONS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO MEET
NOT ONLY TRANSPORTATION COSTS BUT GENEROUS RESETTLEMENT COSTS.

4. SECOND, THERE ARE VIRTUALLY NO EASTERN OR SOUTHERN ASIANS
NOW LIVING IN CHILE. CHILEANS PRIDE THEMSELVES ON THE SUPPOSED
NEAR PURITY OF THEIR EUROPEAN HERITAGE. WE WOULD SUPPOSE
THEY WILL HAVE NO TROUBLE WITH A SYMBOLIC GESTURE ON REFUGEES
BUT THAT CHANCES FOR THEIR TAKING MORE THAN 100 OR 200 ARE
NOT PARTICULARLY GOOD.

5. THIRD, CHILEANS MAY BE SOMEWHAT DISCRIMINATING IN TYPES
OF PEOPLE THEY WOULD ACCEPT. LANGUAGE IS A SIGNIFICANT
BARRIER. PROFESSIONALS ARE PLENTIFUL IN THE URBAN CENTERS,
SCARCE IN THE INHOSPITABLE OUTER REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY.
SKILLED TECHNICIANS, RESTAURATEURS, WOULD DO WELL. LOGCIALLY,
CHILEANS SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO WOULD GO NORTH OR

SOUTH FROM SANTIAGO TO FILL JOBS GOING BEGGING THERE --
NOTABLY, FOR EXAMPLE, DOCTORS.

6. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE YOUR COMMENTS ON WAY IN
WHICH WE MIGHT REACT TO FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS, IF THEY
ARE PRESENTED TO US BY CHILEANS, AS WE MOVE INTO NEGOTIATIONS
ON THIS MATTER.
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